

Moroccan American
Center for Policy

August 10, 2009

Ms. Jean Schmidt
Paralegal Specialist
US Department of Justice
10th & Constitution Avenue, NW
Criminal Division/Counterespionage Section/Registration Unit
Bond Building - Room 9300
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Registration No. 5648 (Moroccan-American Center for Policy)

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

I am writing to confirm that the documentation listed below and pertaining to the Registrant is what is required by the Department of Justice for the filing and labeling of informational materials.

1. Website Distribution: "As Informal Talks Begin on Western Sahara, US and UN Backing is Firm to 'Build on Progress' Already Made for Possible 5th Round Negotiations" (8/10/2009)
2. Distribution to Selected MN Journalists: "US Senate Confirms Minneapolis Attorney as Pres. Obama's Pick for Ambassador to Morocco" (8/8/2009)

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Fatima-Zohra Kurtz
Director of Operations
Moroccan American Management Service

2009 AUG 20 PM 1:12
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION UNIT

Moroccan American

Center for Policy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, August 10, 2009

As Informal Talks Begin on Western Sahara, US and UN Backing is Firm to 'Build on Progress' Already Made for Possible 5th Round Negotiations

Strong US support for compromise solution—initiated by Clinton & Bush Administrations, backed by majority in Congress endorsing Morocco's autonomy plan—remains US policy today as only "realistic" path to peace

Washington, DC (August 10) – Informal talks hosted by UN Personal Envoy for the Western Sahara Christopher Ross are underway in Vienna between Morocco, the Polisario Front, and neighboring countries Algeria and Mauritania to prepare for a possible fifth round of negotiations to end the 34-year old W. Sahara dispute. The informal meetings take place against a backdrop of broad support by the US Administration, US Congress, and UN Security Council for the parties to achieve a lasting peace.

In a July 23 interview on *Viewpoint with James Zogby*, Edward M. Gabriel, US Ambassador to Morocco from 1997-2001, and chairman of the Moroccan American Center, noted that the policy of US support for Morocco's compromise plan began in the Clinton and Bush Administrations, and remains US policy today.

US diplomat Ross was appointed to succeed the previous UN Personal Envoy for the Western Sahara, Peter Van Walsum, in January 2009 by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, with the instruction to "build on progress made to date" to reach "a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution" that provides "self-determination of the people of Western Sahara." In April 2009, the UN Security Council extended the UN Western Sahara mission, MINURSO, endorsing Ross's call for informal talks to set the stage for a 5th round of negotiations.

Morocco's compromise proposal to provide self-determination through autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty for the Western Sahara enabled the initiation of the four previous rounds of negotiations, which began in 2007. The UN Security Council called that plan "serious and credible," but negotiations mediated by Van Walsum failed to reach agreement, leading him to call for more compromise and realism by the parties. In his final assessment to the UN, Van Walsum concluded that "an independent Western Sahara is not an attainable goal" and the "status quo [is] intolerable," urging that future rounds of talks focus on the compromise proposal for autonomy.

Meanwhile, US support for Morocco's autonomy solution to break the deadlock has continued to grow. In April a bipartisan majority of 233 members of US Congress sent a letter to President Barack Obama stating:

"We remain convinced the US position, favoring autonomy for Western Sahara under Moroccan sovereignty, is the only feasible solution. We urge you to both sustain this longstanding policy, and to make clear, in both words and actions, that the United States will work to ensure that the UN process continues to support this framework as the only realistic compromise that can bring this unfortunate and longstanding conflict to an end."

In his interview, Gabriel said successive US administrations have recognized that "Western Sahara is a sticking point to progress" on critical regional issues of terrorism and economic stability. "Without cooperation and integration, North African nations can't pull together the resources to make the region viable. That's impacting Europe and the US." "There's a 400% increase in terrorism across North Africa since 9/11. Yet there's only a 1.5% rate of inter-regional trade among countries—the lowest in the world. That's a disaster ready to happen," he said. "There are also tens of thousands of people living in refugee camps under squalid conditions in Algeria who need to be freed to live their lives again." Gabriel concluded, "What's needed is sustained US leadership to help forge the compromise."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

US Senate Confirms Minneapolis Attorney as Pres. Obama's Pick for Ambassador to Morocco

Samuel L. Kaplan, long-time Minneapolis attorney, will be 33rd US Ambassador to Morocco, one of the United States' oldest allies.

Washington, DC (August 5, 2009) – On Tuesday, Minneapolis attorney, Samuel L. Kaplan, was confirmed by the United States Senate to be the next US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco. Nominated in June 2009 by President Barack Obama, Kaplan will become the 33rd American to occupy this post in the North African nation which maintains the longest unbroken Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the United States.

"I want to express how humbled I am to be nominated to serve in a Muslim country with a history of tolerance toward people of other faiths," said Kaplan during his July 22, 2009 confirmation hearing before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "As a Jewish American, I understand the importance of President Obama's Initiative to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, and I believe Morocco is an ideal country to continue to further the effort of finding common ground."

Kaplan, who traces his roots to Sephardic Jews in Spain, has practiced law in Minnesota for nearly a half century and his extensive background and experience in law, business, and healthcare will provide Kaplan with a rich understanding of many of the progresses made and challenges facing Morocco today.

"Morocco's continued development, and even its stability, depends on the political, economic, and social reforms that King Mohammed VI has championed since he assumed power ten years ago," noted Kaplan during his confirmation hearing.

"Ambassador Kaplan is a superb representative for the United States and his nomination by President Obama underscores his Administration's sincere and focused determination to work with our close allies in the Muslim/Arab world," said Ambassador Edward M. Gabriel, CEO of the Moroccan American Center and former Ambassador to Morocco from 1997-2001. "His demonstrated leadership and intellect will be an invaluable asset to the United States as we work to further strengthen our more than 220-year bilateral relationship with Morocco."

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